

## ***Expression of Interest from Wallace Sight and Sound Productions Inc.***

Wallace Sight & Sound Productions Inc. (hereafter referred to as WSSP Inc.) is requesting a funding of \$625,000 from the Connect America subsidies in a private-public experiment to provide broadband access to as many entities as possible for rural citizens of Bosque County. The funds will be utilized as a one-time funding of \$500,000 plus \$25,000 per year for five years for software/hardware upgrades and distribution of information.

Wallace Sight & Sound Productions Inc. is located near Meridian, TX, and has been doing business in Bosque County since mid 2003.

As David Salway wrote in an web article *Benefits of Broadband*,

Nine of ten non-adopters say they are simply not interested in getting online. Just like the saying, 'you don't know what you don't know,' broadband non-adopters don't see the relevance of the Internet to their lives, and don't see a need to subscribe. This is particularly true in rural areas, where access is a problem.

We want to solve the access problem and help Bosque residents move on from there.

### **USE OF FUNDING PLAN FOR WSSP INC.:**

WSSP Inc. would enter into a private partnership with at least one, if not more, "Eligible Telecommunications Carrier" (ETC). The goal is to Provide 4 Mbps down/1 Mbps up *or greater* fixed broadband in locations that do not currently have 3 Mbps down/768 kbps up or better. We will continue to explore the options of fiber or other wireless services associated with speeds that may be higher.

Working with our ETC partner (*still to be determined*), we would coordinate with local co-ops and owners of water storage tanks/towers that could provide line of site technology. In exchange for the use of these towers, we would provide services and also generate income from working with local businesses that may require services that they *now* pay more for and have less service.

WSSP Inc. has secured necessary documents listing all elevated water storage tanks and pictures of each facility currently located in Bosque County. Working with our Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) partners, we would invest the funds in hardware/ software/ information to this rural area's advantage by using existing water towers, communication towers and/or investing in erecting new towers in partnership with individual land holders.

Other broadband technologies would not be overlooked or ignored, but explored.

WSSP Inc. would work with the CAIs to provide services to them. These services could also be in partnerships utilizing these existing elevated facilities. There are no tribal lands within Bosque County but numerous anchor institutions exist which could benefit greatly.

**IMPORTANCE OF BROADBAND ACCESS:**

Within Bosque County there are eight school districts whose individual students could benefit to a great extent. The name of the district and number of students in that district in 2012 are: Clifton ISD, 1,093; Cranfills Gap ISD, 117; Iredell ISD, 134; Kopperl ISD, 246; Meridian ISD, 541; Morgan ISD, 106; Valley Mills ISD, 647; and Walnut Springs ISD, 199. Teachers and other staff would also profit

Bosque County has a considerable home-school population and the benefits to the individual families to have high-speed, low-cost access to the Internet would be invaluable.

City governments and chambers of commerce in small towns could benefit greatly from greater speed and lower costs in connectivity. That certainly applies to the Bosque County government and interrelated services such as Emergency Preparedness, EMTs, police and sheriff officers. National legislation has long been "introduced" for building an interoperable broadband public safety network for the nation's first responders. There are areas of the U.S. which have benefited from these grants. We would like to be on equal footing with other parts of the nation. Also, various offices of city, county, and state government are located throughout this area where citizens/property owners need reliable connections.

Two libraries in this area, the Nellie Pederson Library in Clifton and the Meridian Public Library, as well as the Bosque County Historical Commission/The Bosque County Collection. are great resources for this entire Bosque area and offer services which could be greatly enhanced by superior broadband. Needless to say, more affordable broadband would open up extra possibilities to health/long-term care facilities such as Goodall-Witcher Hospital, Lutheran Sunset Ministries facilities, Meridian Manor care facility, and the Clifton Care facility. Civic groups within Bosque County carry on normal organizational activities but are also very dedicated to serving the citizens of this area. Civic leaders and members of organizations such as Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion would benefit individually and as groups by having improved access.

WSSP Inc. would work with the Community Anchor Institutions (CAI) to provide services to them. These services could also be in partnerships utilizing existing elevated facilities. There are no tribal lands within Bosque County but, as stated, numerous anchor institutions exist which could benefit greatly.

### LOCAL COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES:

Businesses seek out high speed broadband access when choosing to relocate and/or grow their business because they need broadband to compete — whether on a local or global level. Communities that connect their residents create wealth and attract business investments. There are "pass-through" cables in our county, but we need to provide connection here!

WSSP Inc. would also work with local businesses in each community to provide superior connectivity at an equal-to or better monthly rate than they are now receiving for less service.

*Immediate examples are:*

All Around Performance Horse – *Weekly TV Show needing to transfer massive media data*

G3S2.org – *Humanitarian organization that supports humanitarian workers worldwide*

Lowticket.com – *On-line travel business has a hard time connecting for business requirements*

Local author – *Needs ability to upload books to publisher*

Wallace Sight & Sound Productions Inc. – *Very high cost for bandwidth to do business in audio, video, websites, etc.*

Numbers of businesses have moved in (and out) of the area in recent years because owners want to live and work in this area, but there is not the physical traffic to support their businesses nor is there high speed to provide new opportunities for innovation, expansion, and robust e-commerce. We want to change that!

### EXAMPLE OF INFORMATION COLLECTED FOR SPECIFIC FACILITIES-Considering Partnering:

R			Mustang Water Supply (254) 597-2445				
R1	713	CR 4130	MUSTANG WATER	WELL # 1	MERIDIAN	TX	76665
R2	102	CR 2130	MUSTANG WATER	WELL #2A	MERIDIAN	TX	76665
R3	310	CR 4175	MUSTANG WATER	WELL #3A	CLIFTON	TX	76634
R4	109	CR 4147	MUSTANG WATER	WELL #3B	CRANFILLS GAP	TX	76637
R5	159	PR 4226	MUSTANG WATER  <i>EX: We have a picture and the GPS location for each of the tower resources</i>	WELL # 4  N 31 43' 53.93" W 97 40' 26.64" Elev. 949	CLIFTON	TX	76634
R6	259	CR 2130	MUSTANG WATER	WELL # 6	MERIDIAN	TX	76665
R7	1775	CR 4190	MUSTANG WATER	WELL # 7	CLIFTON	TX	76634
R8	1248	CR 4195	MUSTANG WATER	WATER OUTLET	CLIFTON	TX	76634

## ELIGIBLE LOCATIONS IN TEXAS:

TX	48035	Bosque	48035950100	766	241	529599.27
TX	48035	Bosque	48035950200	39	0	15730.74
TX	48035	Bosque	48035950300	213	29	110884.4
TX	48035	Bosque	48035950400	278	68	352159.12
TX	48035	Bosque	48035950700	33	4	36227.17



**EXISTING OPTIONS FOR BROADBAND CONNECTIONS (*common language for discussion*):**

Broadband includes several high-speed transmission technologies such as:

Digital Subscriber Line (DSL),

Cable Modem,

Fiber,

Wireless,

Satellite,

Broadband over Powerlines (BPL)

*White Space* - As the FCC struggles to discover and allocate more spectrum for broadband use, the Commission, in a unanimous vote, approved the use of “white space” for broadband. What is “white space” and what does it have to do with broadband?

*Definition of White Space* - White spaces are unused bands of spectrum between television stations, left after television signals went digital. Another way of saying this is... the unused frequencies allocated to broadcasting services but that are left unused in particular areas of the country. For example, for digital TV in the UK, these chunks of spectrum are left open as buffering gaps between the high-powered transmissions carrying broadcast TV to avoid interference.

The white space frequencies vary by region, but lie in chunks of spectrum between 470MHz and 790Mhz. The size of the frequency gaps, and their precise frequency, varies too - meaning there is no single white space frequency that can be used around the country.

Devices such as mobile phones and tablets could use the free spectrum by knowing which frequencies are available, at what power levels, and at which times of the day in a particular location.

The broadband technology chosen will depend on a number of factors. These may include location in an urban or rural area, how broadband Internet access is packaged with other services (such as voice telephone and home entertainment), price, and availability.

Of particular interest to WSSP Inc., local progress is being made in Clifton where a grant to the City of Clifton was approved by the Economic Development Corporation to provide downtown with free broadband access. Maybe there is a possibility others can enter into an agreement to glom onto their signal.